

Please delete claims 3 and 4 without prejudice.

Amend claims 5 and 6 as follows:

5. (Amended) A method of exploring synchronisation trails within a network comprising a plurality of network elements, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining network element synchronisation data;  
obtaining network element connectivity data; and  
computing synchronisation trail information for a network element and the trail to the synchronisation source of the element, using said synchronisation data and said connectivity data.

6. (Amended) A method of displaying information relating to synchronisation trails within a network comprising a plurality of network elements, said method comprising:

obtaining network element synchronisation data;  
obtaining network element connectivity data;  
computing synchronisation trail information for said network elements from said synchronisation data and said connectivity data; and  
for each synchronisation trail, displaying in graphical form the synchronisation trail information from a network element and following the trail to the synchronisation source of the element.

Please add new dependent claims 7 to 12 and new independent claim 13.

7. A method according to claim 1 wherein computing the synchronisation trail information comprises the steps of:

selecting a network element as a start of a synchronisation trail; and following the synchronisation trail to the synchronisation source of the network element using said synchronisation data and said connectivity data.

8. A method according to claim 1 wherein computing the synchronisation trail information comprises the steps of preferentially selecting leafNode network elements of the network as a start of a synchronisation trail.

9. A method according to claim 1 wherein computing the synchronisation trail information comprises the steps of:

preferentially selecting leafNode network elements of the network as a start of a synchronisation trail;

following the synchronisation trail to the synchronisation source of the selected network element using said synchronisation data and said connectivity data;

tagging all the network elements involved in synchronisation trails as they are followed; and

discarding tagged network elements as the start of subsequent synchronisation trails.

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10. A method according to claim 1 wherein computing the synchronisation trail information comprises the steps of:

counting the number of hops from a network element at the start of synchronisation trail to a primary reference clock.

11. A method according to claim 1 wherein computing the synchronisation trail information comprises the steps of:

labelling a network element as 'OK' if the synchronisation trail containing that network element ends in a primary reference clock.

12. A method according to claim 1 wherein computing the synchronisation trail information comprises the steps of:

labelling a network element as 'ISLAND' if the synchronisation trail containing that network element does not end in a primary reference clock; and

labelling a network element as 'LOOP' if the synchronisation trail is traced back to a network element already in the synchronisation trail.